

REMARKS

Claims 21-39 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1-20 are canceled, and claims 21-39 are added. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the foregoing amendment and following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. Formal Matters

The Office rejects claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection is moot since claim 10 is canceled by this Amendment and none of claims 21-39 includes the language upon which the rejection was based. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

II. Pending Claims 21-39 Define Patentable Subject Matter

A. The Office Action rejects claims 1-19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,280,253 to Kraus et al., and claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kraus et al. (Kraus) in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,227,913 to Davis et al. (Davis).

Applicant respectfully submits that since these rejections are moot, since claims 1-20 are canceled by this Amendment.

B. Claims 21-39 are added by this Amendment. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 21-39 are patentably distinct from Kraus and Davis for the following reasons.

Claim 21 recites, *inter alia*, a plurality of fuse pieces, each including a plate-shape input terminal and a plate-shape output terminal, and a fuse casing including a plurality of fuse mount holes that separately receive the fuse pieces. These features were originally recited in canceled claims 1 and 3, and described in the specification on, for example, page 4, line 11 - page 5, line 23, and shown in, for example, Figs. 1 and 2. For example, page 4, line 11 of the specification discloses the "plate-shaped construction" of the fuses, and the rectangular plate shape of fuse terminals 2 and 4 is shown in Fig. 1. Moreover, the rectangular plate-shape of fuse terminals 104 and 105 is shown in Fig. 5 and described on pages 14 and 15 of the specification. Also, page 4, lines 14-16 of the specification describe

that the input terminal and the output terminal are substantially in the form of a rectangle. In addition, as best shown in Fig. 1, each fuse mount hole receives a fuse piece.

In Kraus, on the other hand, as shown in Fig. 1, the terminal 94 has a shape of a needle or rod rather than a plate. In addition, in Kraus, each slotted aperture (alleged by the Patent Office to correspond to the fuse mount holes) 92 receives only one terminal 94 of the fuse 93, which differs materially from the claimed invention which recites a plurality of fuse mount holes for separately receiving the fuse pieces.

Davis does not overcome these deficiencies of Kraus. For example, Davis teaches at col. 5, lines 1-2 that a removable circuit element 177 can comprise a fuse element, but Davis does not teach or suggest a plate-shape input terminal or a plate-shape output terminal. In addition, Davis does not teach or suggest a fuse casing including a plurality of fuse mount holes separately receiving the fuse pieces. As such, claim 1 is patentably distinct at least from Krause and Davis.

As such, claim 21 is allowable. Claims 22-39 are allowable at least for their dependence on an allowable base claim, as well as for the additional features they recite. For example, claim 32 recites that the fuse pieces are substantially horizontally disposed on the fuse casing. This feature is shown in Fig. 5, for example. Neither Krause nor Davis teach or suggest this feature.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 21-39 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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